

North-West (Rice Lake) *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group _____ Double Yellow _____ (color)

Facilitator _____ Ann Lydecker _____

Recorder-Reporter _____ Bill Rubin _____

Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: _11_)

Develop and use the technological infrastructure to expand rural, urban, and global business opportunities.

Priority response #2 (votes: _10_)

Provide support to expand existing businesses and develop new businesses that are regionally appropriate.

Priority response #3 (votes: __9_)

Reform state tax structures to facilitate recruitment and retention of businesses, employees, and residents

Priority response #4 (votes: _7__)

Develop youth and seniors opportunities to expand state's workforce

Priority response #5 (votes: _7__)

Develop infrastructures for education, communications, electric power, transportation, and waste management to support economic development.

Priority response #6 (votes: __5_)

Restructure health insurance and ensure that all employees have access to health benefits as well as assisted living opportunities.

Priority response #7 (votes: _5__)

Provide and expand adequate housing and child care assistance for young families.

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Develop and use the technological infrastructure to expand rural, urban, and global business opportunities.

- Use State resources to expand bandwidth, and connect all public agencies and institutions
- Provide affordable connections and access to high speed communications to all state residents and business and etc.
- Provide businesses (new and existing) opportunities to access bandwidth through public and private entities
- Provide local access to government (WI, not MN) through TV, internet, radio, etc.
- Stimulate the organization of regional venture capital funds for technology-based ventures that match private investment

Priority Issue #2 Provide support to expand existing businesses and develop new businesses that are regionally appropriate

- Create tax credits for training
- Revamp state corporate tax structure to encourage entrepreneurship
- Create initiatives to promote teaming and collaboration among: corporations, small businesses, entrepreneurs, UW system, technical colleges, retired professionals, and young adults
- Create regional venture capital fund, matched by the state, with state technical assistance, to develop local business.
- Enhance current RLF's (revolving loan funds) to allow more flexibility and diversity that meets regional needs (increase efficiency)
- Expand opportunities and resources for local entrepreneurial centers (business incubators)
- Remove obstacles that prevent business development (e.g. certification processes, permit processes, zoning, etc.)
- Permit local governments to provide tax incentives as appropriate (such as lower utility rates, or tax abatements)
- Develop a centralized database of resources to assist with development of businesses

- Expand Northwest WI Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC) for initial assessment phase and customized training.
- Ensure 1-stop centers have resources to assist business
- Involve youth in local industries by funding internships, youth apprenticeships, and expanding youth options. Minimize liability of business that offer these options

Priority Issue #3 Reform state tax structures to facilitate recruitment and retention of businesses, employees, and residents

- Relax state mandates to encourage greater local control
- Revamp state corporate income tax structure
- Stabilize property taxes and other taxes
- Cut state spending and expansion by limiting services
- Eliminate unfunded mandates